

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 INSE-00 PER-01 SCA-01 CU-02
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DEPT. PLEASE TRANSMIT TO ALL EUROPEAN POSTS FOR ACTION

E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, GE, WB, US, OTRA
SUBJ: TRAVEL BY USG PERSONNEL TO BERLIN AND/OR TO THE GDR

REF: STATE 112231 (DATED 14 MAY 1975)

1. THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES OF USG PERSONNEL AND/OR
DEPENDENTS TRAVELLING TO WEST BERLIN, OFFICIALLY AND
OTHERWISE, WHO ARE NOT AWARE OF USG RESTRICTIONS ON
TRAVEL TO AND THROUGH THE GDR.

2. MANY SUCH VISITORS TO WEST BERLIN ARE ALSO NOT AWARE
THAT THE SECTOR BOUNDARY BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND WEST
BERLIN IS NOT RECOGNIZED BY THE USG AND ITS ALLIES AS
AN INTERNATIONAL BORDER. ACCORDINGLY, USG PERSONNEL
OR THEIR DEPENDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO SUBMIT TO
GDR CONTROLS AT THE EAST/WEST SECTOR BOUNDARY CROSSING
AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE. THIS RESTRICTION DOES NOT
APPLY TO HOLDERS TO FULL FEE TOURIST (BLUE) PASSPORTS.

3. TRAIN TRAVELLERS FROM WEST BERLIN GOING EASTWARDS
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MUST TRANSFER ONTO WARSAW AND MOSCOW BOUND TRAINS IN
THE SOVIET SECTOR (EAST BERLIN). TRAIN TRAVELLERS
BOUND FOR WEST BERLIN FROM THE EAST MUST DETRAIN IN
EAST NOT WEST BERLIN BECUASE EAST GERMANS IMPOSE
OBJECTIONABLE CONTROLS (INCLUDING EXIT STAMP AT SECTOR"/
SECTOR BOUNDARY) ON TRAVELLERS TO WEST BERLIN. TRANSPORT

TO AND FROM EAST BERLIN STATION (OSTBAHNHOF) MUST BE ARRANGED IN ADVANCE. PASSAGE FROM THE WESTERN SECTORS TO THE GDR AIRPORT OF SCHOENEFELD, HOWEVER, IS EASY, AND MAY ACCOMPLISHED BY A REGULAR BUS SERVICE, WITHOUT VISA FORMALITIES. TRAVEL TO EAST GERMANY BY PRIVATE CARS ALSO PRESENTS NO PROBLEM, PROVIDED THAT USG DRIVERS HAVE GDR VISAS ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL. THEIR CARS MAY NOT EXIT WEST BERLIN INTO THE SOVIET SECTOR, FOR REASONS GIVEN IN PARAGRAPH TWO, AND INSTEAD MUST GO ONTO THE EAST GERMAN HIGHWAY NET AT DREILINDEN (CHECKPOINT BRAVO).

4. FOR USG PERSONNEL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS IN EITHER SECTOR, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO ACCOMMODATE TRANSIT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BERLIN, WHEN SUCH TRANSIT IS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT OFFICIAL BUSINESS. REGRETFULLY, OUR LIMITED PERSONNEL RESOURCES WILL NOT PERMIT THESE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSIT BY USG PERSONNEL AND/OR DEPENDENTS IN BERLIN ON PRIVATE VISITS.

5. TRAVEL BETWEEN SECTORS IS, OFCOURSE, READILY ACCOMPLISHED BY USG PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENT ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. MISSION IN WEST BERLIN, AS WELL AS BY THOSE ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY LOCATED IN EAST BERLIN. PRIVATE VISITORS WHO ARE HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC (BLACK) PASSPORTS ARE NOT PRECLUDED FROM ACCOMPANYING PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO EITHER POST WHEN TRANSITING CHECKPOINT CHARLIE BY PRIVATE AUTOMOBILE WITH US FORCES OR GDR DIPLOMATIC PLATES. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS PRIVILEGE IS NOT ACCORDED TO VISITORS HOLDING OFFICIAL (RED) PASSPORTS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. AS REGARDS TRAVEL ROUTES, IT IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR THEISSION TO TRANSPORT OUTSIDE OF WORKING HOURS USG TRAVELLERS STAYING IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN TO AND FROM TRAINS DEPARTING OR ARRIVING AT THE OSTBAHNHOF IN TEHE EASTERN SECTOR. SUCH TRAIN DEPARTURES NORMALLY OCCUR QUITE LATE AT NIGHT. USBER'S GERMAN CHAUFFEURS CANNOT DRIVE INTO THE EASTERN SECTOR, AND WE ARE RELUCTANT TO IMPOSE NIGHT CHAUFFERUR DUTIES ON US PERSONNEL.

7. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE ABOVE TRAVEL PROCEDURES, AS WELL AS THOSE INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S 112231 DATED MAY 14, 1975, BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL AMERICAN EMPLOYEES AND/OR DEPENDENTS PLANNING TO TRAVEL TO BERLIN AND/OR THE GDR. WE REGRET THAT THESE PROCEDURES MAY SEEM INCONVENIENT, BUT TRAVELLERS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARISE FROM BERLIN'S ISOLATED

LOCATION AND THE FORCED DIVISION OF THE CITY. THE
DEPARTMENT HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE PROCEDURES ARE
NECESSARY TO PROTECT OUR SPECIAL RIGHTS IN BERLIN, AND
THE LEGAL POSITION OF THE USG CONCERNING BERLIN AND
GERMANY. DAVIS

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ALL EUROPEAN POSTS.

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